

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

October 2010 – Week 4

Air Date: October 24 – October 30 (Sunday – Saturday)



TITLE: DUELING FAIRS

OCTOBER 1886 LET'S GO TO THE STATE FAIR – BUT WHICH ONE?

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

OCTOBER 25, 1886. DALLAS. STATE FAIRS ARE NOTHING NEW. THE FIRST WAS HELD IN TYLER IN 1870. HOUSTON HAD SOME TOO. NOW DALLAS WANTS IT'S OWN FAIR. WHEN ORGANIZERS CAN'T AGREE ON A LOCATION, THEY SPLIT AND PLAN TWO FAIRS.

TODAY, THE TEXAS STATE FAIR OPENS NORTH OF TOWN. THE DALLAS STATE FAIR OPENS A DAY LATER EAST OF TOWN, AT PRESENT DAY FAIR PARK. BOTH HAVE LIVESTOCK AND FOOD EXHIBITS. BOTH EARN MONEY FROM NEW RACETRACKS. CROWDS FLOCK TO THE FAIRS, BUT NEITHER MAKE A PROFIT.

IN 1887, THE FAIRS MERGE, SETTLING ON FAIR PARK. IN 1930, THE RACETRACK IS REPLACED BY THE COTTON BOWL. CORNY DOGS AND BIG TEX SOON FOLLOW.

THE STATE FAIR OF TEXAS BEGAN 124 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

Handbook of Texas – STATE FAIR OF TEXAS

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/SS/lks2.html>

Galveston Daily News, Monday, October 25, 1886 and Thursday, February 10, 1887

www.newspaperarchive.com

Official State Fair website, BigTex.com, accessed 9/30/09

<http://www.bigtex.com/aboutus/history/>

American State Fair, by Derek Nelson, MBI Publishing Co. 2004

http://books.google.com/books?id=K2_E-fLitM8C&lpg=PP1&client=firefox-a&pg=PT22#v=onepage&q=&f=false

“Keeping a Corny Tradition” American Profile online magazine, accessed 9/30/09

<http://www.americanprofile.com/article/23654.html>

Fair Park, Texas, website accessed 9/30/09

http://www.fairpark.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=180

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